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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/583,967	06/21/2006	Michael Komowski	1006/0123PUS1	1506
60601 7590 08/05/2010 Muncy, Geissler, Olds & Lowe, PLLC 4000 Legato Road Suite 310 FAIRFAX, VA 22033				
EXAMINER MILLER, SAMANTHA A				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3749				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/583,967

**Applicant(s)**

KOMOWSKI, MICHAEL

**Examiner**

SAMANTHA A. MILLER

**Art Unit**

3749

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 October 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/CD)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/14/2009
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Amendment*

Receipt of applicant's amendment filed on 10/7/2009 is acknowledged

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by XIA in view of DAUTRY (EP1469258).

XIA teaches:

1. A housing and a flap arrangement with at least two flap parts (56 and 56) for opening and closing an opening which are pivotable about a pivot axes (58 and 58) which run parallel to one another (Fig.1), each of said at least two flap parts including a first end (the center point of the straight end 76), a second end (the center point of the curved end 78) and a midpoint (the midpoint between the center point of the straight end and the center point of the curved end) halfway between said first end and said second end, the pivot axis (58) of, each of said at least two flap parts (56 and 56) being located between said first end (the center point of the straight end 76) and said midpoint (the midpoint between the center point of the straight end and the center point of the curved end) of each of said at least two flap parts, first ends (the center point of the straight end 76) of the two flap parts (56 and 56) bear against one another (thru 75) in

the closed state of the flap arrangement (Fig.3), and roll and/or slide on one another during a movement, at least one flap (the gasket material 74 rolls against each other) part from the closed state into a partially open state or vice versa (col.4 ll.21-31).

2. The at least one of the two flap parts (56 and 56) is formed, at least in the bearing region (at 75), to be extremely elastic (by 74 being gasket material).

4. The two flap parts (56 and 56) have a streamlined profile (same flat surface profiles, Fig.3).

5. Refer to claim 1; including a stop (75 acting with 76, col.4 ll.31-34) is provided on the housing in the central region between the pivot axes (58 and 58) on at least one side of the flap arrangement (Fig.3).

6. One side stop (walls of 52 shown in Fig.4) is provided on the housing (Fig.4) on each side of the flap arrangement.

7. The central stop and the two side stops (walls of 52 shown in Fig.4) are arranged on mutually opposing sides of the flap parts (Fig.3).

9. The air conditioning unit contains a device (col.3 ll.31-53).

10. The air conditioning unit comprises at least one of the following components: heat exchanger, radiator, evaporator, filter, temperature mixing flap, mixing chamber, one or more flow ducts and one or more control flaps for distributing the air to the outlet ducts (col.3 ll.31-53, has at least a heat exchanger, evaporator, and mixing chamber).

11. A housing (51) having an opening; first and second flap parts (56 and 56) for opening and closing the opening, said first and second flap parts each having a first end (the center point of the straight end 76), a second end (the center point of the curved

end 78), a midpoint (the midpoint between the center point of the straight end and the center point of the curved end) halfway between said first end and said second, end and a pivot axis between said midpoint and said first end; said first and second flap parts being shiftable from a first configuration (Fig.3) wherein said first end of said first flap engages through a center portion (at 75) said first end of said second flap and said first and second flap parts cover the opening to a second configuration (Fig.4) wherein said first flap part at least partially uncovers the opening, wherein said first ends of the first and second flap parts engage one another as said first flap part moves from said first configuration to said second configuration.

Regarding claim 12; refer to the rejection of claim 1.

14. The second configuration, a distance between the pivot axis (58 and 58) of the first flap part and the pivot axis of the second flap part is less than a sum of the distance from the pivot axis of the first flap part to the first end of the first flap part and the distance from the pivot axis of the second flap part to the first end of the second flap part (In a closed state 74 is compressed against 75 in a sealing arrangement to do this the distance must be smaller than the distance when 74 is not in a compressed state).

Regarding claim 15, refer to the rejection of claim 14.

Regarding claims 16 and 18; an air conditioning unit for motor vehicles including the device (as this is intended use the device is taught in an air conditioner and can be used in a vehicle).

Regarding claim 17, refer to the rejection of claim 5.

XIA teaches the invention above however XIA does not teach the two flap parts bear against one another in the closed state or a coating of PP rubber or a foam injection-molded encapsulation.

DAUTRY teaches:

Regarding claims 1 and 11; the two flap parts bear against one another in the closed state.

3. The closed state, the two flap parts (3 and 4) are in planar contact (at 31 and 41, Fig.4a).

13. The first ends of the two flap parts engage one another by sliding on one another as said first flap part moves from said first configuration to said second configuration (Fig.4a to Fig.4b and Fig.4c) .

Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the flaps of XIA with the first ends of DAUTRY in order to create one seal instead of two which would increase the effectiveness of the seal.

8. The flap parts (3, 4) have a coating of PP rubber or a foam injection-molded encapsulation (flexible foam, col.1 l.57-col.2 l.1).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the flaps of XIA with the material of DAUTRY in order to have a material that is low cost flexible and strong.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed 10/7/2009 have been fully considered but they are moot in view of the new rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL** See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR '1.136(a). A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Samantha A. Miller whose telephone number is 571-272-9967. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 8:00 - 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steve McAllister can be reached on 571-272-6785. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Samantha Miller  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3749  
7/3/2010  
/Steven B. McAllister/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3749